



### Hosted by:

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Arizona State University Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, and Democracy Fund Voice

July 24, 2018 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Washington, DC  
Newseum 7th Floor Knight Conference Center

As in years past, the event convenes state and local election officials, advocates and stakeholders from language communities to discuss critical issues of language accessibility. Speakers will share experiences and observations on efforts to serve voters with language needs. Panelists representing Asian American, Latino, American Indian, Alaskan Native, and additional language communities from across the country will discuss demographic changes, the Section 203 designation process, federal requirements under the Voting Rights Act, voluntary and proactive language assistance, as well as strategies for cost-effective services. Participants will also highlight how emerging trends in election administration, such as the spread of vote centers and new election technologies, are impacting language access. The summit aims to share information, as well as generate new understanding and appreciation between various stakeholder communities.

## PROGRAM

- 8:30 – 9:00 am **Breakfast and Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:10 am **Welcome and Introductions**  
**Tom Hicks**, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
**Alberto Olivas**, Founding Executive Director, Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, Arizona State University  
**Terry Ao Minnis**, Senior Fellow and Consultant, Democracy Fund Voice
- 9:10 – 10:20 am **Session 1: Overview - Current Issues and Looking Ahead to 2021**  
The 2018 elections are the first federal general elections since the most recent Section 203 determinations. This opening session will help set the stage for the day's discussion, focusing on best practices, and practical tools for serving language minority voters for implementing Section 203 and beyond. Panelists will discuss demographic shifts and their impact for serving language needs across the nation, as well as current issues faced by covered jurisdictions and those who are close to coverage.  
**Moderator: Terry Ao Minnis**, Senior Fellow and Consultant, Democracy Fund Voice  
**James Whitehorne**, Chief, Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office, U.S. Census Bureau  
**John C. Yang**, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice  
**Julie Barker**, Election Operations Supervisor, Clark County, Nevada  
**Rosalind Gold**, Senior Director, Policy, Research and Advocacy, NALEO Education Fund

- 10:20 – 10:45 am **Remarks from the Department of Justice**  
**John Gore**, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division,  
U.S. Department of Justice
- 10:45 – 11:00 am **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 11:15 am **Summit Talk: Deaf Culture and Access to the Vote**  
**Michelle Bishop**, Voting Rights Specialist, National Disability Rights Network
- 11:15 – 12:25 pm **Session 2: Cost-Effective Practices for Providing Language Assistance**  
Effectively providing language assistance requires an investment in resources and time. Additionally, jurisdictions must be fiscally responsible and efficient with their spending. Small and medium-sized jurisdictions with limited resources, as well as jurisdictions covered for multiple languages, face particular challenges in this regard. This session will focus on cost-effective ways to provide language assistance, from small to big ideas.  
**Moderator: Christy McCormick**, Vice Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission  
**Sonya L. Aston**, Administrator of Elections, Harris County, Texas  
**Kathy Placencia**, Administrator of Elections, Board of Canvassers and Voter Registration, Providence, Rhode Island  
**Michelle Tassinari**, Director and Legal Counsel in the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division  
**Dr. James Tucker**, Pro Bono Voting Counsel, Native American Rights Fund
- 12:25 – 1:25 pm **Lunch and Guest Speaker**  
**Nellie M. Gorbea**, Secretary of State, Rhode Island
- 1:25 – 2:35 pm **Session 3: Above and Beyond Section 203: Voluntary Assistance and Other Proactive Measures**  
Section 203 has fostered language assistance for many language minority voters over the last 40 plus years. However, as effective as it has been, Section 203 is limited to specific jurisdictions that meet the thresholds. Election stakeholders have used multiple tools to go beyond Section 203 in serving their language minority voters, including voluntary language assistance to meet a community need, effective implementation of Section 208, utilization of Section 4(e) for Puerto Rican voters, and enacting state laws to expand the franchise for language minority voters. This session will explore these and other efforts to ensure that all language minority voters are able to access needed assistance and cast a meaningful vote.  
**Moderator: Stacey Scholl**, Senior Program Associate, Elections, Democracy Fund Voice  
**Bill Cowles**, Supervisor of Elections, Orange County, Florida  
**Kira Romero-Craft**, Managing Attorney, Southeast Regional Office, Latino Justice PRLDEF  
**Francesca Menes**, Florida St. Coordinator, Local Progress/Center for Popular Democracy  
**Nicole L. Crispo**, City Clerk, City of Quincy, Massachusetts
- 2:35 – 2:50 pm **Afternoon Break**
- 2:50 – 3:30 pm **Summit Chat: Language Community Outreach in Alaska: Building Relationships, Trust, and Tapping Cultural Knowledge**  
**Moderator: Alberto Olivas**, Founding Executive Director, Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, Arizona State University  
**Indra Arriaga**, Elections Language Assistance Compliance Manager, Alaska Division of Elections  
**Walkie Charles, PhD**, Associate Professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks

3:30 – 4:45 pm

### **Session 4: Trends in Election Administration and their Impact on Language Access**

The field of election administration is constantly changing. Recent shifts include growing alternatives to traditional precinct-based voting (e.g. vote-by-mail, early voting, vote centers) and increased focus on election technology and the auditability of voting systems. This session will look at these trends and others through the lens of language access and explore how to anticipate and meet the needs of language minority voters when considering changes to election policy or practice. Our last summit session aims to take the discussion beyond the importance of Section 203 compliance towards expanded approaches to language assistance.

**Moderator: Tom Hicks**, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

**Matt Beaton**, Auditor, Franklin County, Washington

**Travis Lane**, Assistant Director, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

**Maria Bianchi**, Director, Voting Information Project, Democracy Works

**Lucy Barefoot**, Voter Education and Outreach Specialist, Washington Secretary of State

**Whitney Quesenberg**, Co-Director, Center for Civic Design

4:45 – 4:55 pm

### **Closing and Next Steps**

